

Frequently Asked Questions by Health Science Majors Dr. Gerstman (Major Advisor)

1. What Health Science concentration should I pursue?

As a Health Science major, you must select one of three major concentrations. These are: a) the "General" concentration, b) the Health Education concentration, and c) the Health Care Management concentration. There is significant overlap among the concentrations (i.e., they are more similar than different) and you can usually switch concentrations without great detriment. To determine differences and similarities among the concentrations, please consult the Major Course Sequence worksheets.
2. What type of jobs do Health Science students acquire after graduation?

There is no single answer to this question. Unlike nursing (for example) an undergraduate degree in health science is *not* generally considered a professional degree.¹ Therefore, there is no single profession pursued by health science majors. Health science majors do achieve employment in a broad range of occupations, including but not limited to: a) health education, b) research and evaluation, c) health care administration, d) environmental health e) customer service, f) sales, and g) public relations. A significant percentage of graduates pursue advanced degrees upon completion of their undergraduate degree.
3. What courses should I take?

To graduate, you must complete both General Education (GE) requirements and Major requirements. General education requirements are outlined in the Schedule of Classes. The Assessment Center (Admissions and Records) can be helpful in determining what GE requirements you have remaining. Major course requirements are outlined in the SJSU catalogue and on the Major Course Sequence Worksheet. Please note that there is a separate Course Sequence form for each concentration. With the help of your advisor, you can use the Major Course Sequence Worksheet to plan your courses in the major.
4. Will I get a job after graduation?

In today's world, a degree is no guarantee of a job. Employers are more interested in the skills you possess that the degree you carry. The skill sets that are in demand are increasing technical and communications (oral, written and electronic) oriented. It is therefore very important to build basic skills during your undergraduate career. Apparently, there are jobs out there, but it is very competitive. An informational article on this topic is attached to this page.
5. When will I graduate?

If you take a full course load (15 units) and plan your curriculum carefully, you should graduate within 2 to 2.5 academic years of completing your General Education requirements.
6. How often must I get advised?

Once. You must get advised within a semester of beginning your studies at SJSU.
7. How often should I get advised?

This is entirely up to you. Once a year is usually adequate. However, if you have any academic questions, please feel free to seek advising as often as you like.
8. When can I get advised?

Advising is available while school is in session during office hours of advisers.
9. When do I file for graduation?

File for graduation two full semesters before you expect to graduate. If you plan on graduating in Spring (May), file for graduation the preceding September. If you plan on graduating in the Fall (December), file the preceding February.
10. How do I file for graduation?

Before filing for graduation: a) make certain you have completed all General Education requirements, b) have your major advisor fill out your major form, and c) if you have a minor, have your minor advisor fill out a minor form. Then take your completed major (and minor form) along with your application for graduation to Admissions and Records. Be sure to take your check book, because there will be a modest (approx. \$25) fee required to file for graduation.

¹ The possible exception to this statement is that there is a certification exam for undergraduate completing the Health Education concentration. This certification is called "CHES," which stands for "Certified Health Education Specialist." Information on this test is available in the Health Science office.